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RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0221
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 0162
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0585
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1334
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0254
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0265
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1036
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0312
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 004585

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FOR NEA/ARP, EB/ESC/TFS, S/CT, IO/UN, TREASURY FOR PATRICK
HEFFERNAN, RACHEL LOEFFLER AND KRISTEN HECHT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/05/2016

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SUBJECT: UN COUNTERTERRORISM ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETS WITH G-8
AMBASSADORS

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (U) On December 4, a visiting United Nations Counterterrorism Executive Directorate delegation met with Ambassadors from the G-8 nations and from Spain, Switzerland and Australia to discuss Kuwait's implementation of UNSCR 1373, the level of the terrorism threat in Kuwait and the counterterrorism capabilities and needs of the Government of Kuwait(GOK).

Threat Level

12. (C/NF) There was agreement among the participants that the threat level in Kuwait was lower than a number of other countries in the region, but still significant as evidenced by the confrontation between the police and the Peninsula Lions in January 2005 and the convictions in May 2005 of members of the "Jihadis in Iraq" group, who were convicted of recruitment of young Kuwaitis to commit acts of terror against Coalition forces in Iraq. (Note: U.S. and Russian Ambassadors, and UK Emboff made detailed presentations; the rest of the diplomatic corps were along for the ride.)

Compliance

13. (C/NF) The consensus of the participants was that while Kuwait had taken a number of measures required by UNSCR 1373, it was still deficient in that it had not enacted the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, created an Egmont Group compliant Financial Intelligence Unit, or criminalized acts that facilitate terrorism such as membership in a terrorist organization, conspiracy and financing of terrorism. The UN delegation did note with approval that Kuwait's draft Anti-Terror Financing Law covered "99% of the required actions" under UNSCR 1373, but also noted that the real test will be implementation.

Capabilities

14. (U) UN delegation head Sergey Karev concurred with the diplomatic representatives that while much of the legal

framework for an effective counterterror system was in place, the GOK fell short in three important areas; implementation on the working level, recognition of and willingness to take action regarding areas where Kuwait was not compliant with UNSCR 1373, and government-wide acceptance of the existence of a substantial terrorist threat in Kuwait. Karev described elements in the GOK as being in a "state of denial" about the threat and about the areas where they were noncompliant. The UN and the G-8 3 Ambassadors agreed that the primary obstacle to effective implementation was a widespread inability of GOK ministries and agencies to cooperate on information sharing.

¶5. (U) Two areas of specific concern were also noted. The Italian, Japanese and UN delegation raised concern about the security of ports of entry. All three reported instances of fake passports being successfully used to enter Kuwait at the airport. The Spanish Ambassador reported that recently a number of Spanish nationals of Syrian descent had entered Iraq via Kuwait and that most appeared headed to Basrah. He had no further information about their activities.

¶6. (U) Mr. Karev noted that the CTED would deliver a report of their visit with its assessment and recommendations to the GOK and to the U.N. Security Council.

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